

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, everyday, more than 8,000 lives are estimated to be lost to the global AIDS pandemic and for the first time since the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, more than a million Americans are believed to be living with the virus that causes AIDS, National HIV Testing Day is an opportunity for the people of Maricopa County to increase their awareness of this terrible disease and to get tested for HIV/AIDS. By working together to end this pandemic, citizens of Maricopa County contribute to a brighter future for themselves, for our country and for people around the World; and

WHEREAS, new drugs and new treatments bring hope and enhance the quality of life for those who are affected by HIV/AIDS, these advances can only help individuals if they know their HIV status. National HIV Testing Day promotes the importance of education in helping people make healthy decisions about preventing and treating HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-quarter of people who are HIV-positive do not know that they are carriers and, therefore, cannot get the treatment they need and may unknowingly spread new infections. The goal of National HIV Testing Day is to identify people who are HIV-positive and don't know it so they can access treatment and live longer, healthier lives while preventing new HIV infections by increasing education, awareness, and access to voluntary counseling and testing; and

WHEREAS, testing is easier than ever, it is imperative that those at risk for HIV/AIDS get tested. The people of Maricopa County are encouraged to support the battle against HIV/AIDS. Also those at risk are urged to get tested for the disease and to learn more about how to end this health threat locally, in America and around the World; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Maricopa County Supervisor, Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5 and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health do hereby proclaim June 27, 2005, as **NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY** in Maricopa County, Ariz. and encourage businesses, government agencies, national organizations, community-based organizations, and service groups to spread the message throughout their communities.

Dated this 27 day of June, 2005

Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5



ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board